From: "Brooks, Karl" </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=78AC91F4DB6D44F58424B504D5AA3C7D-BROOKS, KARL>

To: <u>Hammerschmidt</u>

"Ron; Thomas"

<u>Hattie</u>

CC: <u>Hague</u>

Mark; Singletary
"DeAndre; Cacho"

<u>Julia</u>

Date: 7/26/2013 12:10:24 PM

Subject: FW: EPA Monthly Questions on West Lake
Attachments: 2013 07 25 EPA WestLakeQuestions.pdf
2013 06 18 EPA WestLakeQuestions.pdf
2013 05 23 EPAWestLakeLetters.pdf
2013 06 06 EPA WestLake Response.pdf

Ron,

I want our letter of today pdf'd to the Smiths. Also to Chapman at below email. Julie will follow to Smiths with hard copy.

Hattie will post to West Lake website Tues, so we give time for the Carter Monday info to get its due.

I will briefly reply to Ed's email indicating answers coming separately, and newest questions will be considered in due course.

Karl Brooks Regional Administrator EPA Region 7 913-551-7006

**From:** esmith@moenviron.org [mailto:esmith@moenviron.org]

Sent: Friday, July 26, 2013 10:00 AM

To: Brooks, Karl; Tapia, Cecilia; Gravatt, Dan; Ramona.Huckstep@dnr.mo.gov; Shawn Muenks; Kring, Debbie; Chris Nagel

Cc: hnavarro@moenviron.org; Dawn Chapman; Kerry DeGregorio; downey\_palmer@blunt.senate.gov; Lou Aboussie; Brecht Mulvihill; Erik Rust; Joeana Middleton; Gary Gorski; Steven Engelhardt; Pauline Jamry

Subject: EPA Monthly Questions on West Lake

Director Brooks,

In a meeting with MCE and Dawn Chapman the morning after the June 25 meeting on West Lake, we agreed to only send EPA Region 7 questions once a month to decrease the amount of email traffic, which we believe is a fair request. MCE is living up to our end of the deal and expects, along with West Lake Landfill impacted communities, that EPA respond to all of our questions. If a question needs clarifying or an answer is not readily available, please let us know. MCE and people around West Lake Landfill deserve a timely response to questions we have submitted to EPA Region 7. Several questions that are being asked today were in letters sent to EPA in May and June 2. Heat were not answered. Please see the attached questions and we look forward to a response.

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Attached are the letters sent to EPA in May and June for reference and one response from Region 7. Please send a response to Dawn Chapman and the letters sent to EPA in May and June for reference and one response from Region 7. Please send a response to Dawn Chapman and the letters sent to EPA in May and June for reference and one response from Region 7. Please send a response to Dawn Chapman and the letters sent to EPA in May and June for reference and one response from Region 7. Please send a response to Dawn Chapman and the letters sent to EPA in May and June for reference and one response from Region 7. Please send a response to Dawn Chapman and the letters sent to EPA in May and June for reference and one response from Region 7. Please send a response to Dawn Chapman and the letters sent to EPA in May and June for reference and one response from Region 7. Please send a response to Dawn Chapman and the letters sent to EPA in May and June for reference and one response from Region 7. Please send a resp

The attached letter with questions were signed by people who attended a community led meeting at Pattonville High School on June 25 to discuss the West Lake Landfill.

Thanks, Ed

Ed Smith
Safe Energy Director
Missouri Coalition for the Environment
(314) 705-4975
www.moenviron.org
@showmenocwip

July 25, 2013

Karl Brooks Regional Administrator, Region 7 Environmental Protection Agency 11201 Renner Blvd. Lenexa, KS 66219

RE: West Lake Landfill Superfund Site

Dear Mr. Brooks:

The West Lake Landfill impacted communities request answers to the below questions. During a June 26, 2013 meeting with Administrator Brooks, the Missouri Coalition for the Environment agreed to work with community members to only send questions regarding the landfill once a month. The Environmental Protection Agency has yet to respond to questions submitted in May and June of 2013. The West Lake Landfill impacted communities continue to be concerned about the safety of citizens living in proximity to the landfill and depend on the EPA to address our concerns as the lead regulatory agency. The undersigned community members expect the EPA to provide a written response within 4 weeks of receiving this letter.

- 1. How close can the subsurface smoldering event approach West Lake Landfill before the EPA interjects and emergency actions are taken? Meaning, does the EPA have a "red line" for its involvement?
- 2. Has the EPA received any information regarding groundwater flow at the West Lake Landfill from the USGS? Is there a timeframe for USGS involvement?
- 4. Where exactly will the off-site groundwater samples be collected surrounding the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site? Will a sampling plan be made available for comment before sampling is conducted?
- 5. Will EPA provide groundwater sampling (both on-site and off-site) locations, results, and plans with the community?
- 6. How does the EPA explain levels of Radium-226 and Radium-228 outside of Operable Unit 1? For example: The Responsiveness Summary from 2008 (page 3) states "only four wells exhibited a total radium concentration above the MCL of 5 picocuries per liter (pCi/I)" with the maximum reading being 6.33PiC/l. A map in the Groundwater Monitoring report dated December 14th displays 20 wells that show radium levels above 5pCi/l with PZ-l0l-SS reading 32.01pCi/l, which is outside of Area-l and Area-2 of Operable Unit 1.
  - a) With the increase in the concentration of Radium from the wells, how can the EPA continue to state that the levels of Radium being read are naturally occurring?

- b) Can the EPA explain the significant increase in wells that showed Radium above 5 PiC/1?
- 7. Does the EPA contend that 8,700 tons of leached barium sulfate from Latty Avenue was mixed with 38,000 tons to 39,000 tons of "clean material" as stated in the Responsiveness Summary (page 13)?
- 8. What studies/investigation did the National Remedy and Review Board recommend EPA Region 7 conduct to better understand the West Lake Landfill?
- 9. Why was the fence along OU-1 Area 1 moved closer to the St. Charles Rock Road? What day(s) was the new fence constructed? By whose order?
- 10. Will the EPA provide digital records on its website of all documents in the "administrative record" and "public record" concerning West Lake Landfill?
- 11. How many Superfund Sites in Region 7 involve radiological contamination? Has EPA Region 7 executed a ROD at a radioactive Superfund Site? If so, which ones and when?
- 12. How can the EPA conclude that the radioactive materials are contained based on the ASPECT plane, which only measured gamma radiation up to one foot, while the radioactive wastes are buried up to 15 feet deep and there is no liner to prevent groundwater contamination?
- 13. Has the EPA conducted community interviews of "impacted communities" in the last ten years? If yes, does the EPA have evidence to support that community interviews were conducted? If yes, how have community interviews guided the EPA's response to community concerns? If no, does the EPA plan on conducting community interviews prior to the next Record of Decision?

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

West Lake Landfill Impacted Communities & MCE

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Questions for EPA June 18, 2013

Karl Brooks Regional Administrator, Region 7 Environmental Protection Agency 11201 Renner Blvd. Lenexa, KS 66219

RE: West Lake/Bridgeton Landfill Superfund Site

Dear Mr. Brooks:

The Missouri Coalition for the Environment (MCE) requests a meeting to go over questions submitted to the EPA dated May 23, 2013 and the questions below regarding the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site in St. Louis County, Missouri. MCE would like to meet with EPA staff before the June 25, 2013 public meeting scheduled at Pattonville High School so we can have an in-depth conversation regarding MCE and community concerns at West Lake Landfill. Will EPA meet with MCE before the June 25 meeting? If a meeting cannot be scheduled for June 25, will EPA please provide a written response to unanswered questions from the May 23 letter and questions listed below?

- 1. The EPA's 2008 Record of Decision on West Lake Landfill makes numerous assumptions about the inability of the radioactive wastes to move offsite based on current site conditions. The data also shows that the radioactive wastes will become more radioactive for the next 9,000 years. West Lake Landfill sits in a floodplain, in an urban area, and in a seismic zone; recently, several tornadoes have come close to touching down at the landfill; and there is a "subsurface smoldering event" in the landfill in close proximity. What guidance/statute/regulation does EPA use when determining long-term risk at Superfund Sites that will remain contaminated virtually forever?
  - a. The Japanese and United States governments never considered multiple events compromising nuclear reactors, like the earthquake and tsunami that hit Fukushima in Japan, crippled three reactors, and damaged safety systems. Has the EPA developed a risk assessment that considers multiple disasters impacting the spread of radioactive wastes at the West Lake Landfill?
- 2. Does the EPA contend that 8,700 tons of leached barium sulfate from Latty Avenue was mixed with 38,000 tons to 39,000 tons of "clean material" as stated in the Responsiveness Summary (page 13)?
- 3. How does the EPA explain levels of Radium-226 and Radium-228 outside of Operable Unit 1? For example: The Responsiveness Summary from 2008 (page 3) states "only four wells exhibited a total radium concentration above the MCL of 5 picocuries per liter (pCi/l)" with the maximum reading



being 6.33PiC/l. A map in the Groundwater Monitoring report dated December 14th, 2012 (page 84) displays 20 wells that show radium levels above 5pCi/l with PZ-101-SS reading 32.01pCi/l, which is outside of Area-1 and Area-2 of Operable Unit 1. With the increase in the concentration of Radium from the wells, how can the EPA continue to state that the levels of Radium being read are naturally occurring?

- a. Does naturally occurring Radium increase its radioactivity over time?
- b. Can the EPA explain the increase in the level of radium in the wells above 5 PiC/l?
- 4. Given that the radioactive wastes were dumped at West Lake 40 years ago and Dr. Criss's conclusion that the "radiologically-contaminated groundwaters have moved substantial lateral distances away from the original areas where the radwaste was dumped, and also have entered subjacent Mississippian bedrock," is it more likely that the levels of Radium-226 and Radium-228 are elevated because they are from the radioactive wastes that were dumped and therefore are not naturally occurring as the EPA currently concludes?
- 5. Besides the ASPECT plane and groundwater testing, is the EPA doing anything else (i.e. soil samples) to improve its understanding of the West Lake Landfill and the radioactive materials that are present?
- 6. Is the EPA conducting groundwater samples outside the West Lake Landfill? If no, why not? If no, how can the EPA claim the radioactive wastes have not moved off site? If yes, can the EPA provide the data?
- 7. How can the EPA conclude that the radioactive materials are contained based on the ASPECT plane, which only measured gamma radiation up to one foot, while the radioactive wastes are buried up to 15 feet deep and there is no liner to prevent groundwater contamination?
- 8. Is there a "red line" to trigger the removal of the radioactive wastes in context to the smoldering landfill event and its apparent progression north towards Area 1?
- 9. Has the EPA conducted community interviews of "impacted communities" in the last 10 years? If yes, does the EPA have evidence to support that community interviews were conducted? If yes, how have community interviews guided the EPA's response to community concerns? If no, does the EPA plan on conducting community interviews prior to the next Record of Decision?

Thank you for your consideration.

Ed Smith, MCE

Kathler Log Smith Kathleen Logan Smith, MCE



May 23, 2013

Karl Brooks Regional Administrator, Region 7 Environmental Protection Agency 11201 Renner Blvd. Lenexa, KS 66219

RE: West Lake/Bridgeton Landfill Superfund Site

## Dear Mr. Brooks:

A subsurface landfill fire is burning in the proximity of nuclear weapons wastes in Bridgeton, Missouri. The odor from the landfill fire has impacted tens of thousands of people and concern about it contacting the nuclear weapons wastes is growing. The EPA announced in January the landfill fire was 1,200 feet from the nuclear weapons wastes. In May, the Missouri Attorney General announced the landfill fire is 1,000 feet away from the nuclear weapons wastes. EPA employees have stated several times this year that it is not possible for the landfill fire to reach the nuclear weapons wastes.

The Missouri Coalition for the Environment and the undersigned members of the adjacent communities would love to be as confident as your staff that the fire will not reach the nuclear weapons wastes. Please help us understand your position so that we may know our communities are safe. Please answer our questions:

- 1. Can the EPA say with 100% confidence that the landfill fire will not reach the nuclear weapons wastes? If yes, will the EPA explain to the community, in detail, the information it is using to make this determination. If no, what is the EPA plan to ensure the fire does not reach the nuclear weapons wastes?
- 2. How does EPA explain that the temperatures in the landfill past the interceptor wells are rising above levels of concern- 170 degrees at several of the monitoring wells including at TMP5, TMP13 and TMP14?
- 3. The EPA Remedial Investigation for the West Lake Landfill OU-1 (pg. 80) indicates that the normal groundwater flow is toward the Missouri River. However, its normal flow was being influenced by the leachate collection system in the adjacent landfill. It's our understanding that the leachate collection pumps have stopped working at the Bridgeton landfill. How will this affect groundwater flow in the West Lake Landfill OU-1 Area 1 and 2?

- 4. Is the EPA sampling groundwater between West Lake OU-1 and the Missouri River or anywhere offsite?
- 5. Will EPA provide the data on groundwater sampling locations, results, and plans?
- 6. How often is EPA sampling groundwater monitoring wells? What days did the EPA sample groundwater at the site in 2012 and 2013? What is the schedule for groundwater sampling in 2013?
- 7. Groundwater plumes are often seen at superfund sites where soil has been contaminated with chemicals. Soil is not the same as landfill waste. Would EPA expect to find a groundwater plume in a heterogeneous mixture of materials such as can be found in the West Lake landfill?
- 8. How would groundwater behave in landfill material that might be different from how groundwater would behave in a homogeneous material like soil?
- 9. What information would EPA need in order to predict groundwater movement in landfill material with some degree of accuracy? Does the agency have this information?
- 10. Has the EPA conducted community interviews of "impacted communities" in the last 10 years? If yes, does EPA have evidence to support that community interviews were conducted? If yes, how have community interviews guided EPA response to community concerns? If no, what is the EPA plan for conducting community interviews and when will people be notified?
- 11. In March, EPA told the public that it flew the Aspect plane over the area to measure airborne radiological hazards. Where is the data from the Aspect plane?
- 12. Will EPA provide the raw data to the public?
- 13. What are the abilities and limitations of the ASPECT plane monitors?
- 14. Did the ASPECT plane conduct a thermal analysis of the landfill?
- 15. Who requested the ASPECT plane flyover?
- 16. Why was the ASPECT plane flown over?
- 17. Where did it take measurements?
- 18. Does the EPA have any air data on radon/radon daughters from north St. Louis?

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Yours truly,

Kathleen Logan Smith, MCE

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Ed Smith, MCE

Dawn Chapman, Maryland Heights

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Bob Nowlin, Bridgeton

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## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION 7

11201 Renner Boulevard Lenexa, Kansas 66219

JUN 0 6 2013

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Ms. Kathleen Logan Smith Mr. Ed Smith Missouri Coalition for the Environment 6267 Delmar Boulevard, Suite 2E St. Louis, Missouri 63130-4722

Dear Ms. Logan Smith and Mr. Smith:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has received your letter dated May 23, 2013, which is signed by you and other individuals. We appreciate the issues you raise through your questions. Presently, the EPA is engaging experts throughout this agency and other federal agencies to support Region 7 in its analyses of conditions and response actions to be taken at the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site.

You expressed specific interest in information the EPA derived from the ASPECT study. The ASPECT report contains responsive information which the EPA released to the public on May 29, 2013. It may be accessed at this website: www.epa.gov/region7/cleanup/npl files/index.htm#westlake.

You also expressed interest in several issues related to the subsurface smoldering event at the Bridgeton Sanitary Landfill. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources is the regulatory agency responsible for overseeing work at that landfill, and questions on that work should be directed to MDNR.

The EPA is holding a public meeting on Tuesday, June 25, 2013, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the auditorium at Pattonville High School, 2497 Creve Coeur Mill Road, Maryland Heights. The agency plans to update the public on data collected since the last meeting in January and also cover the topics identified in your letter.

Karl Brooks